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The Bonnycastle Bursary and Scholarship: Honouring a Legacy Through Action

In 2019, during the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) Conference held in Montréal, Hear Québec announced the creation of the Bonnycastle Bursary and Scholarship in honour of Dale Bonnycastle — a founding member of the organization, long-time volunteer, and current Board President.

For Dale, this recognition was both meaningful and deeply aligned with her lifelong commitment to service. With over 35 years of experience in audiology and decades of community work with Hear Québec, Dale has dedicated her career to improving access, communication, and support for people living with hearing loss. Establishing a bursary in her name was not only a tribute to her contributions, but a way to create a lasting and practical legacy that continues to support members of our community.

The Bonnycastle Bursary and Scholarship was created to provide direct financial assistance to individuals with hearing loss who require assistive devices, technical aids, or accessibility-related services that enhance their communication and participation in daily life. The fund is specifically intended for members who may not qualify for public funding, who face unexpected barriers, or who need additional support to access the tools that allow them to remain active, independent, and engaged in their environments.

This bursary reflects Hear Québec's core mission: ensuring that no one has to face communication barriers alone. Rather than waiting for systemic solutions, the scholarship allows us to respond in a timely and compassionate way to real and immediate needs within our community.

This year, we are proud to share that, through the Bonnycastle Scholarship Fund and the strength of our partnerships, we were able to support two deserving members in accessing essential hearing technology. Thanks to our collaboration with partners such as the Forget Foundation, one senior member was able to acquire the hearing devices they needed to support daily communication and safety. In addition, a youth member and full-time student



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was able to obtain a second hearing device to complement her cochlear implant, allowing for bilateral hearing and improved access in her academic environment.

These outcomes represent exactly what the scholarship was designed to do: remove barriers and provide practical, life-enhancing support at the right moment. Both recipients demonstrated clear need and strong commitment to improving their communication and overall quality of life. Through this fund, and in partnership with trusted organizations like the Forget Foundation, we were able to ensure they received appropriate guidance, quality care, and access to the best possible solutions for their individual situations.

More importantly, this initiative reflects Dale Bonnycastle's legacy one grounded in compassion, professionalism, and a belief that accessibility should be attainable and realistic for everyone.

The Bonnycastle Bursary and Scholarship is not just a fund. It is a community-driven tool that allows Hear Québec to act directly, responsibly, and meaningfully in support of our members.

In honour of this legacy, Hear Québec is launching an annual World Hearing Day giving campaign dedicated to the Bonnycastle Scholarship Fund. Each year, this campaign will focus on raising funds that go directly toward supporting individuals with hearing loss who need assistive devices and accessibility supports.

Our goal this year is modest but impactful: to raise \$300 for the Bonnycastle Scholarship Fund.

We are inviting our members, partners, and supporters to contribute \$10, roughly the cost of two cups of coffee. When many people give a small amount, the collective impact becomes powerful and immediate.

In honour of World Hearing Day, we invite you to stand with us in celebrating a legacy of access, dignity, and practical support. Together, we honour Dale's legacy not only in name, but through action, by continuing to close accessibility gaps, support our members, and build a more inclusive and connected future for all.



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About Hear Québec

Hear Québec is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting English-speaking Quebecers affected by hearing loss through peer support, accessibility initiatives, education, and advocacy. More than 75% of the organization's board, staff, and volunteers live with hearing loss, bringing real-world insight to every aspect of its work.

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